Modifications in loan grant pattern

234. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of an urgent need to review grant component of Central plan assistance to States as many States are under debt to Centrally imposed loan burden as well as of interest payment liabilities thereof;

(b) if so, the number of States which have requested the Centrel to modify the plan assistance as 50 per cent loan and 50 per cent grant instead of 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant as at present; and

(c) by when the required action is expected to be taken by Government in order to modify the loan grant pattern which was adopted long ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Various States from time to time have requested for changing the loan grant pattern as flowing to the States under State Plans. Present pattern of Central Assistance to the States is based on ratio of capital revenue expenditure of Developmental projects undertaken by the States under their Annual Plans. This ratio is based on the decision of National Development Council.

Response to 'insta remit' gateway

235. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government launched an easy to use electronic remittance gateway 'insta remit' for overseas Indians in partnership with the UTI Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response received so far from each country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A pilot launch of an electronic remittance facility, for overseas Indians, was made at a plenary session of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, on January 07, 2006. The remittance facility would provide access to different modes of remittances including an instant remittance service which would facilitate seamless